

City of Takoma Park

Police Rebate Negotiations



Takoma Park Police Rebate

⌘ City of Takoma Park is only
Montgomery County municipality
with full-service police force



Takoma Park Police Rebate

- ⌘ Last overall municipal tax duplication agreement approved in 1996
- ⌘ Takoma Park police rebate is unique situation based on 1940's agreement



Takoma Park Police Rebate

⌘ General principle:

☐ What would Montgomery County pay for providing police service if no Takoma Park Police Department?



Takoma Park Police Rebate

⌘ Determination by County Executive

⌘ Subject to budget passed by County Council



Takoma Park Police Rebate

⌘ Became issue in 2000 when funds cut substantially at nearly last minute

☐ Method for calculating police salaries had been changed; Cityunaware of change



Takoma Park Police Rebate

⌘ Poorly-documented formula

- ☐ Clearance codes not equivalent
- ☐ Statistics being kept differently
- ☐ No definitions



Takoma Park Police Rebate

⌘ Staff changes meant different interpretations of formula components



Takoma Park Police Rebate

- ⌘ Lobbying effort important to establishment of committee
- ⌘ Had County Council oversight



Takoma Park Police Rebate

⌘ Committee included:

- ☑ County OMB senior staff
- ☑ County Council aide
- ☑ City reps from Administration,
Finance, Police



Takoma Park Police Rebate

⌘ Negotiation process handled formally

- ☑ Established ground rules
- ☑ Took meeting notes
- ☑ Limited discussion with others



Takoma Park Police Rebate

⌘ Learned a lot about police work!



Takoma Park Police Rebate

- ⌘ Several different methods of calculating rebate were investigated
- ⌘ Definitions were researched
- ⌘ Research on actual costs were done
 - ☑ Uniforms and personal equipment
 - ☑ Vehicles
 - ☑ Span of control



Takoma Park Police Rebate

⌘ Ended up tweaking original formula

⌘ Key improvements included:

- ☑ Established consultation process

- ☑ Written definitions



Takoma Park Police Rebate

⌘ FY03 rebate is \$1,711,216

- ☑ 39% of \$4.4 million City police budget
- ☑ \$409,121 over the amount projected
- ☑ \$188,612 due to the change in formula
- ☑ \$220,509 due to corrected data



Takoma Park Police Rebate

- ⌘ Council authorized City Manager to sign MOU in September 2002
- ⌘ County notified City of proposed change in process (which may significantly reduce rebate) in May 2003



Takoma Park Police Rebate

⌘ Lessons Learned:

- ☑ County wants to keep; City wants to get
- ☑ Focus on what County would do
- ☑ Be forthright; build trust
- ☑ Ensure on-going process
- ☑ Recognize political realities



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For more information, contact:

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